

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A composition~~An electrocoat material comprising bismuth compounds, further comprising~~
(A) ~~at least one self-crosslinking and/or externally crosslinking binder containing (potentially) comprising~~
at least one group that is a potentially cationic group, a cationic group, a potentially anionic group, or an anionic groups, and
one or more reactive functional groups which undergo thermal crosslinking reactions
~~(i) with themselves or with complementary reactive functional groups in the self-crosslinking binder, or~~
~~(ii) in the case of the externally crosslinking binder, with complementary reactive functional groups present in crosslinking agents (B)~~
~~are able to undergo thermal crosslinking reactions,~~
~~(B) if desired, at least one crosslinking agent comprising the complementary reactive functional groups, and~~
(C) a bismuth subsalicylate compound having an~~empirical formula of~~ C₇H₅O₄Bi.
2. (Currently Amended) The composition material as claimed in~~of~~ claim 1, wherein the bismuth subsalicylate (C) is water-insoluble and/or pulverulent.
3. (Currently Amended) The composition material as claimed in~~either of~~ claims 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the bismuth subsalicylate (C) has a bismuth content of from 56.5 to 60% by weight.
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~material as claimed in any~~composition of claims 1 ~~to~~ 3, comprising, based on its solids, from 0.05 to 5% by weight of bismuth subsalicylate (C).

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~material as claimed in any~~composition of claims 1 to 4, wherein the binder (A) ~~contains (potentially)~~comprises cationic groups.
6. (Currently Amended) The ~~material as claimed in any~~composition of claims 1 to 5, wherein the one or more reactive functional groups of binder (A) ~~comprise~~are hydroxyl groups.
7. (Currently Amended) The ~~material as claimed in any~~composition of claims ~~1 to 6~~13 to 6, wherein the self crosslinking binder comprises ~~complementary reactive functional groups~~are blocked isocyanate groups.
8. (Currently Amended) The composition~~material as claimed in any~~ of claims ~~1 to 7~~14, wherein the at least one crosslinking agents (B) ~~are~~comprises a blocked polyisocyanates.
9. (Currently Amended) The composition~~material as claimed in any~~ of claims 1 to 8, further comprising at least one additive (D).
10. (Currently Amended) The ~~material as claimed in~~composition of claim 9, wherein the additive (D) ~~is~~comprises a pigment.
11. (Currently Amended) The ~~material as claimed in~~composition of claim 10, wherein the at least one additive~~pigments~~ (D) comprises pigments~~are~~ selected from the group consisting of color pigments, effect pigments, electrically conductive pigments, magnetically shielding pigments, fluorescent pigments, extender pigments, and anticorrosion pigments, organic pigments, and inorganic pigments, and mixtures comprising at least one of the foregoing.
12. (Currently Amended) A method of coating a surface, comprising applying the composition of claim 1 to the surface to create a coated surface and applying

another coating to the coated surface before the applied composition is cured~~The use of an electrocoat material as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11 for producing electrocoats and/or multicoat paint systems by wet-on-wet techniques.~~

13. (New) The electrocoat material of claim 1 wherein the at least one binder is self crosslinking.

14. (New) The electrocoat material of claim 1 further comprising at least one crosslinking agent comprising complementary reactive functional groups reactive with the reactive functional groups of the at least one binder (A).

15. (New) The electrocoat material of claim 14 wherein the at least one binder (A) comprises at least one self crosslinking binder and at least one externally crosslinking binder.